

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended) Starter for an internal combustion engine comprising an electric motor (11) having a cylindrical housing (15) supporting the stator (12) and a rotor (13) coupled to an output shaft (43) for the rotational driving of a starter head (30) with the interposing of an epicyclic gearbox (45), the said gearbox comprising:

- a ring gear (46) having an internally toothed cylindrical annular skirt (61), and a radial flange (62) provided with a hole (63) for coaxial passage of the output shaft (43), and

- a support (16) non-rotatably coupled to the housing (15) in an unmoveable manner, the support (16) and the housing (15) having respectively a second abutment face (71) and a third abutment face (72) so-as-to define a connection interface,

wherein the ring gear (46) of the gearbox (45) has a first abutment face (70) situated in a same plane as the connection interface between the support (16) and the housing (15).

2. (original) Starter according to claim 1, characterised in that the connection interface is delimited between a second abutment face (71) of the support (16) in axial abutment against a third abutment face (72) of the housing (15).

3. (original) Starter according to claim 2, characterised in that the ring gear (46) comprises a collar (73) equipped with the first abutment face (70) coming into contact with the support (16).

4. (original) Starter according to claim 3, characterised in that the collar (73) projects from the skirt (61) of the ring gear (46) in order to provide the centring of the housing (15) and ring gear (46) on the support (16).

5. (original) Starter according to claim 3, characterised in that the ring gear (46) of the gearbox (45) is locked in axial translation by the said collar (73) and by a stop protrusion (74) on the housing (15).

6. (original) Starter according to claim 3, characterised in that the centring collar (73) is moulded directly with the ring gear (46).

7. (previously presented) Starter according to claim 1, further comprising a starter head (30) provided with a driver (51), a control lever (41) in engagement with the driver (51) and a wherein the support (16) receiving a control lever (41), and wherein the ring gear (46) of the gearbox (45) comprises an extension conformed so as to fulfill a function of articulation of the control lever.

8. (original) Starter according to claim 1, characterised in that it comprises a starter head (30) provided with a driver (51), a control lever (41) in engagement with the driver (51) and a support (16) receiving a control lever (41), and in that the ring gear (46) of the gearbox (45) comprises an extension conformed as a male element engaged in a cavity (69) in the support (16) receiving a control lever (41).

9. (Currently amended) Starter for an internal combustion engine comprising an electric motor (11) having a cylindrical housing (15) supporting the stator (12) and a rotor (13) coupled to an output shaft (43) for the rotational driving of a starter head (30) with the interposing of an epicyclic gearbox (45), the said gearbox comprising:

- a ring gear (46) having an internally toothed cylindrical annular skirt (61), and a radial flange (62) provided with a hole (63) for coaxial passage of the output shaft (43), and

- means of axial centring of the said ring gear (46) in a support (16), said support (16) being in permanent contact with the housing (15),

wherein the support (16) and the housing (15) having, respectively, second abutment face (71) and third abutment face (72) defining a connection interface, and

wherein the ring gear (46) of the gearbox (45) has a first abutment face (70) situated in a same plane as the connection interface between the support (16) and the housing (15), said plane and said connection interface being perpendicular to the output shaft (43).